

Instructions for Doing the Boil Water Order Public Notification^(e-coli)

(Public Notification for Community Systems (Examples: municipalities, subdivisions, mobile home parks, apartment houses, etc.))

NOTE: Public notification must be done as soon as possible but no later than 24 hours from today!

1 Get the Word Out to Everybody! The notice must be designed to reach residential, transient, and non-transient users of the water system. Use, at a minimum, one or more of the following forms of delivery:

(Please note that certain elements are required to be included in the notification. This also applies to radio and TV broadcasts. If you want to change the enclosed “Drinking Water Warning” please call your Compliance Officer, Maine Drinking Water Program (207) 287-2070.)

- Appropriate broadcast media (such as radio and television).
- Posting of the notice in conspicuous locations throughout the area served by the water system
- Hand delivery of the notice to persons served by the water system
- Another delivery method approved in writing by the Maine Drinking Water Program

2 Within ten days of issuing the notice, send to the Drinking Water Program office:

- A copy of each type of notice that was issued: and
- The completed Certification form (enclosed with this letter)

The presence of fecal coliform and/or E. coli bacteria in your water constitutes an imminent public health hazard. Federal and State Regulations (40 CFR 141.32; M.R.S.A. 10-144 Chapter 231 Section 7 et seq.) require that you issue the enclosed Public Notification within 24 hours of receipt of this letter. If the population served does not speak English as a primary language, the notice must be multi-lingual.

Maine Law 22 M.R.S.A. § 2617 and 10-144 CMR 231and (1C), provide for a fine of up to \$750 per day per violation, if the notification is not issued.

Boil Water Order

BOIL THE WATER BEFORE USING IT!

Water tests conducted on the _____ [System name] PWSID# _____ water supply showed the presence of **E. coli bacteria** during the period _____ [Compliance begin date] to _____ [Compliance end date]. The presence of these bacteria indicates that disease-causing microorganisms may be in the water.

What should you do?

USE BOTTLED WATER OR BOIL THE WATER FOR FIVE (5) MINUTES BEFORE USING IT. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, food preparation, or in any other activity involving consumption of water until further notice. Boiling kills bacteria and other microorganisms in the water.

E. coli and fecal coliforms are bacteria whose presence indicate that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

The symptoms listed above can be caused by other things besides contaminated drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice. People at increased risk should seek advice from their health care providers about drinking water.

What happened? What is being done?

The contamination of the water was caused by: _____
_____.

_____ [System name] is doing the following to correct the problem:
_____.

You will be notified when tests show no bacteria and you will no longer need to boil the water. We anticipate having the problem corrected by _____ (estimated time frame). For more information, please contact _____ (individual) of _____ [System name] at _____ (phone) or _____ (address).

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or by mail.

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CERTIFICATION

(Complete this certification form and forward it, along with a copy of the public notification that was issued, to the
Maine Drinking Water Program.)

Public Water System Name:

PWSID Number:

Violation: Total Coliform Bacteria Acute MCL Violation

Violation Period: _____ [Compliance begin date] to _____ [Compliance end date].

I _____ (print name) hereby certify and attest that I have notified consumers about the above listed violation in accordance with the delivery, content, format requirements, and deadlines as specified in 40 CFR Subpart Q, 22 MRSA Subsection 2615.

Notice was distributed by _____ on _____.
(Person's name) (Date)

by _____.
(Method used)

(Signature of owner/operator)

(Date)

Drinking Water Advisory

Date: _____

Drinking Water at the _____, has initially tested positive for Total Coliform bacteria. Recheck samples will be taken to confirm the presence of Total Coliform bacteria. Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. As a result, it is recommended that consumers **Boil All Water** for at least 5 minutes before drinking, making ice cubes, washing foods, brushing teeth or other activity requiring human consumption. This should be done until further notice!

Questions regarding this notice should be directed to:

_____ at

or to the

State of Maine Drinking Water Program at
(207) 287-2070 during normal business hours.